

REMARKS

The claims remaining in the present application are Claims 1-27. The Examiner is thanked for performing a thorough search. Claims 4, 5 and 20 have been amended only to correct antecedent basis problems. No new matter has been added.

OBJECTIONS

DRAWINGS

The Office Action objected to the elements in Figure 4 because they were not numbered counter clock-wise. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(1) states that reference characters are to be plain and legible. They must not be used in association with brackets or inverted commas, or enclosed within outlines, e.g., encircled. They must be oriented in the same direction as the view so as to avoid having to rotate the sheet (in other words, a person shouldn't have to turn the drawing sheet around in order to read the reference numbers). The reference numbers on Figure 4 comply with everything in 37 CFR 1.84(p)(1) as well as the rest of 37 CFR, the MPEP and 35 USC. There is nothing in the MPEP, 37 CFR, or 35 USC that says an Applicant is required to reorder the numbering of elements because the Examiner wants them reordered. Therefore, Applicants believe that this objection has been addressed.

CLAIMS

The Office Action objected to Claim 12 for stating "image of a user." The Office Action requested that Claim 12 be amended to recite "image of an user." Applicants respectfully traverse. The rule is to precede words that start with a vowel sound with "an" and precede words that start with a constant sound with "a." It does not matter whether the word actually starts with a vowel or a constant. What matters is how the word sounds. A word can start with a vowel but if it sounds like it starts with a constant it will be preceded with "a." The word "user" sounds like it starts with the letter "y" which is a constant, therefore "user" would be preceded with an "a." For example, type into a word document the phrase "a user" on the first line then type the phrase "an user" on the next line. Then run the grammar and spell checker. The grammar checker will accept "a user" and will flag "an user" as improper grammar. Therefore, Applicants respectfully traverse because "a user" is proper grammar and "an user" is improper grammar. Applicants believe that this objection has been addressed.

REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejected Claims 4, 5 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to depend on Claim 3. Claim 20 has been amended to depend on Claim 19 and to recite 'at said robotic surrogate' instead of "at said robotic surrogate location." Applicants traverse the Office Action's rejection of Claim 20 in regards to "said compressed video stream frame." Claim 14 clearly provides antecedent basis on the 6th line which recites "compressing said video stream frame." Claim 20 depends from Claim 14. Therefore Applicants believe that these rejections have been addressed.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 6 9-11, 14, 21, 22 and 27

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9-11, 14, 21, 22 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,748,689 by Lee et al. (referred to hereinafter as "Lee"). Applicants respectfully submit that embodiments of the present invention are neither taught nor suggested by Lee.

Claim 1 recites,

A method of performing region-of-interest editing of a video stream in the compressed domain, said method comprising:
receiving a video stream frame comprising an unwanted portion and a region-of-interest portion;
compressing said video stream frame to obtain a compressed video stream frame; and
editing said compressed video stream frame to modify said unwanted portion and obtain a compressed video stream frame comprising said region-of-interest portion.

Lee does not teach or suggest, among other things, "...a region-of-interest portion...editing...to modify said unwanted portion..." as recited by Claim 1.

Lee states in the abstract, "...encoder or decoder uses shape information that describes the boundary of a group of pixels representing an object in a sequence of video frames to identify transparent blocks..." Col. 3 lines 1-4 state, "An object is a group of pixels in a video frame used to display something that behaves as a physical entity. In particular, this entity preferably demonstrates relatively rigid body motion and color invariance..." Col. 3 lines 19-22 state, "An encoder employing this

method evaluates the shape of an object to determine whether a given block is transparent, i.e., covered by the object.” The abstract also states, “The encoder and decoder use this shape information to identify transparent macroblocks or blocks so that texture coding and possible motion coding can be skipped.” Therefore, Lee teaches skipping texture coding and possibly motion coding for transparent blocks.

In contrast, Claim 1 recites “a region-of-interest portion.” No where does Lee teach “a region-of-interest portion.” Lee’s object cannot be “a region-of-interest portion” since Lee is using his object to determine transparent blocks that certain types of processing, such as texture coding and motion coding, can be skipped for.

Further, Claim 1 recites “editing...to modify said unwanted portion,” (emphasis added). Instead Lee teaches skipping certain types of processing, such as texture coding and motion coding.

The Office Action asserted that Col. 42 lines 28-33, Col. 43 lines 10-15, and Col. 43 lines 28-34 teach the embodiment recited by Claim 1. However, these portions of Lee merely discuss in more detail Lee’s objects and his transparent blocks, which have already been discussed herein.

For the foregoing reasons, independent Claim 1 should be patentable. Independent Claims 14 and 21 should be patentable for similar reasons that Claim 1 should be patentable. Claims 2-13 depend on Claim 1. Claims 15-20 depend on Claim 14. Claims 22-27 depend on Claim 21. These dependent claims include all of the limitations that their respective independent claims include. Further, these dependent claims include additional limitations which further make them patentable. Therefore, these dependent claims should be patentable for at least the reasons that their respective independent claims should be patentable.


CONCLUSION

In light of the above listed amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested. Based on the arguments and amendments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-27 overcome the rejections of record. For reasons discussed herein, Applicant respectfully requests that Claims 1-27 be considered by the Examiner. Therefore, allowance of Claims 1-27 is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have a question regarding the instant amendment and response, the Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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